

News from SALEM COUNTY

Office of Public Information

Mr. Robin B. Weinstein, Public Information Officer Office Phone: (856) 935-7510 ext. 8202

After Hours: (856) 297-5433

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 24, 2011

SALEM COUNTY FREEHOLDERS ANNOUNCE MICHAEL J. SMITH AS NEW VETERANS AFFAIR COORDINATOR

(SALEM, NJ)—Freeholder Bruce Bobbitt, Chair of the County Public Works Committee, today announced that Mr. Michael J. Smith will start employment with the County of Salem as the Veterans Affairs Coordinator on Monday, June 27, 2011. This new position combines the positions of the Veteran's Intermittent Officer position, previously held by Joseph Lindenmeir, and the Veteran's Services Officer position, previously held by Clinton Jones.

"Our veterans deserve the best service from the Veteran's Office in Salem County," said Freeholder Bobbitt. "We are confident that Mr. Smith will build upon the successes of this office and will bring a proactive, community-oriented approach to this vital post."

Mr. Smith holds an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Salem Community College, Carney's Point, NJ. He was most recently employed by G4S Secure Solutions, a security firm serving PSEG in Lower Alloways Creek. He has served seven years as a Non-Commissioned Officer in the Army National Guard and currently holds the rank of Sergeant.

Mr. Smith is a decorated veteran who has served two tours in Iraq. His military honors include The Iraq Campaign Medal (3rd award), Army Accommodation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (3rd award), National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, and Combat Action Badge. As a resident of Carney's Point, Mr. Smith serves as Assistant Chief of the Carneys Point Fire and Rescue squad and is a life member of VFW Post 8840.

"Our goal in filling this position was to consolidate 2 positions under one so as to save tax payer money, as well as ensuring that we have a Salem County serviceman serving our local heroes," said Freeholder Bobbitt. "Working with our Social Services Department, it is our goal to bring services to the Veterans community and not just simply waiting for them to find us. Our vets have sacrificed so much for us and they deserve the best working for them."

Mr. Smith replaced Mr. Clinton Jones who left County employment on April 7. Mr. Robert Boon, the former Veterans Services Officer, has been filling in on an interim basis until Mr. Smith's hire.

"We are grateful to Mr. Boon for his continuing dedication to the veterans of Salem County by coming briefly out of retirement to serve our veterans during this time of transition," concluded Freeholder Bobbitt.